Congratulations
Dr. Steven L. MacCall

The University of Alabama recently established a chapter of the National Academy of Inventors in an effort to further recognize and encourage campus inventors. Those honored and inducted into UA’s inaugural chapter were: John Allen, Dr. Daniel D. Bulkley, Dr. Robert H. Cline, Dr. Scott A. Spayd, Dr. William H. Butler, Dr. John K. Vinson, Dr. Marcus E. Brown, Dr. Shusuke Kita, Dr. Robert B. Rogers, Dr. Steven L. MacCall, Dr. Lee Broom, vice president for research, Dr. Lawrence M. Greer, Green Capital, and Mr. David A. McMillan. Inductees are pictured (l-r): Dr. Hiroshi Fujimura, Dr. Timothy A. Risko, Dr. Gary J. Honey, Dr. David E. Hibbs, Dr. Bich-Minh Pham and Dr. Hamani G. Badu

Swedinski, interim director of UA’s Office for Technology Transfer, says other goals of the chapter include promoting entrepreneurship, raising awareness of intellectual property, and increasing interactions between campus inventors and industry. Established as a full-time office at UA in 2006, the Office for Technology Transfer works with innovators to facilitate the transfer of technologies created at the University to the commercial marketplace for public benefit. The honorees were inducted Oct. 20 in a ceremony at the University Club.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST DEGREE
Note from Interim Dean Charles Osburn

With the progression of the seasons, much change has come to SLIS. Phil Turner, the long-time dean, moved to Texas in September, taking many gifts and talents and leaving us the memory of his good works and enthusiasm.

University President Andrew Sorensen and Provost Nancy Barrett appointed a Task Force to apprise leadership possibilities for SLIS. The provost made recommendations placing the school at its best advantage in the University structure. Assistant Dean Gordon Coleman and Professor Joan Atkinson were both recommended as interim SLIS on the Task Force.

To keep our alumni and friends up-to-date, a special mailing has been sent to you announcing Provost Barrett’s recommendations, made early in January, to merge SLIS with the College of Communication. Further details of the merger will appear in the spring issue of BNSWALS.

Meanwhile, SLIS continues in its tradition of excellence. Gordon Coleman was selected as Librarian of the Year by Beta Phi Mu. Andrea Wilson was elected state president of the Public Relations Council of Alabama. As always, we appreciate the continued interest and support of our alumni and friends. Your loyalty helps to keep our program strong and growing now and in the future.

Charles Osburn is Dean of Libraries and Interim Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies.

Dean Turner Departs for Texas

Philip Turner, Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has left The University of Alabama for Texas. On September 1, he assumed the duties of Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

While at the University, Dr. Turner served for ten years as a faculty member and as Assistant Dean for one year before succeeding James D. Ramsey in 1987 to become the second Dean of SLIS. During Turner’s tenure as Dean, information technology mushroomed, and SLIS leaped toward the twenty-first century. One of his lasting contributions to the School is the Interuniversity Interactive Telecommunication System (IITS), a network that allows teachers and students in different classrooms to see and hear each other. In the five years since its inception in the University of Alabama System, IITS has grown to about 21 sites that can conduct simultaneous sessions.

Dean of Libraries Charles Osburn was named Interim Dean of SLIS. University President Andrew Sorensen and Provost Nancy Barrett appointed a Task Force to determine the administrative place of SLIS in the University. SLIS faculty members Joan Atkinson and Gordon Coleman were appointed to the Task Force.

Coleman Named Beta Phi Mu Librarian of Year

Gordon Coleman, Jr., Assistant Dean and Associate Professor of SLIS, received the Librarian of the Year Award at the annual luncheon and initiation program of Beta Phi Mu, the international library science honor society. The award recognizes a person in the field who has made an exceptional contribution to professionalism in the state through research, association work, or leadership.

At the April 17 program, Prof. Coleman addressed the subject of humor in the workplace. He explored different kinds of humor and their corporate advantages. He pointed out the fact that good humor promotes health by increasing oxygen intake; producing endorphines; causing a natural “high”; reducing incidences of heart disease, cancer, stroke and depression; and reducing tension and stress. A stress-free work environment can lower absenteeism dramatically. Stress-related illnesses currently cause as many as 75 percent of visits to physicians.

He emphasized that, though humor improves a working atmosphere, silliness doesn’t preclude seriousness, but that dead serious can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Blue chip Fortune 500 companies have increased their use of professional humor trainers because the strategy works. Ninety-six percent of executives believe that humor at work increases productivity, creativity, morale, teamwork and job satisfaction. Absenteeism and turnover are lower. The ultimate benefit of humor is that it enables employers to deal with the increasingly competitive global economy.

Coleman holds a B.A in history from Hampden-Sydney College, an M.S in Library Science from Florida State University, and the Ed.D.in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Virginia. Additionally, he is a 1995 graduate of Harvard’s Management Development Program. He joined the University faculty in 1984, and became Assistant Dean in 1989.

Atkinson Appointed Director Following SLIS Merger

Joan L. Atkinson became Director of the School of Library and Information Studies on May 16, and on July 1 the merger between the School and the College of Communication officially took place. Culpepper Clark, Dean of the College, became our dean. Atkinson received a B.A. in history and English at Harding; an M.A. in English literature at Texas; an M.L.S. at Pratt Institute and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. at the University of Alabama. She teaches children’s and young adult literature, reference and online searching. Her research examines issues of young people’s access to information and ideas.

She joined SLIS in 1972, after teaching English and serving as a high school librarian. She is a past president of the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association, and served on the 1993 Newbery Medal Committee. In 1989, she received the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award from the University of Alabama National Alumni Association. In 1995, she received the Eminent Librarian Award from the Alabama Library Association, and in 1996, she received the Award for Teaching Excellence from the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

Atkinson has high expectations for the new department. To her, the primary objectives of SLIS, whatever its location, are the graduating of high quality students and the continuation of active recruiting. She believes that alumni are one of the department’s greatest strengths.

“We have never before had a 26-year base of experienced alumni,” Atkinson said. “Our alumns have showered us with offers of help and support during our transition period. They add a broader foundation of talent and influence to our resources every year. They’ve become our best recruiters, and they refer people in the field who already have potential for success.”

After 11 years, Atkinson sees a rich base of Book Arts alumni exerting their creativity, management skills and influence in the fields of preservation and conservation as well as in printing, binding and publishing.

According to Atkinson, the greatest challenge in the move to Communication is integrating in terms of faculty and research alliances. The smaller SLIS faculty, each member alone in his or her area of research, will be able to seek Community of Practice alliances and share research concerns to write grants benefiting the entire College. She emphasized the importance of involving graduate students, especially Ph.D. students, in federal grant writing and implementation. She is interested in strengthening the mentoring role between faculty and students.

A SLIS goal will be to continually modify curriculum and opportunities to keep the students in synch with technology and emphasize learning every day on the job.

“The move to a new area is both frightening and challenging. A SLIS faculty position is being filled, and another position becomes available next year. Dean Culpepper Clark envisions a media lab in the MIT tradition to encompass information and library technology. We don’t know what the opportunities will be, but as part of the College of Communication, we want to be poised to respond when our choices become clear.” – Joan Atkinson
The 2016 Beta Phi Mu Award

to

Annabel K. Stephens,
D.L.S.
Northport, AL

For her remarkable career of accomplishment as a professor at the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Alabama;

For her service to the profession of librarianship through leadership roles at The University of Alabama, the Alabama Library Association, the American Library Association, the Public Library Association and numerous contributions to library literature;

For her role as a diligent educator and mentor to generations of graduate students and professionals new to the field of library science; and

For her ongoing advocacy for equitable and access to information throughout the state through public libraries in Alabama and elsewhere.

The American Library Association awards the 2016 Beta Phi Mu Award for distinguished service in library education to Dr. Annabel K. Stephens.

June 2016
Orlando, FL

Keith Michael Fields
Executive Director

Sari Feldman
President
Front and back views:
University of Alabama
School of Library &
Information Studies T-Shirt
An innovator who inspires in an engaged, synchronous online environment

"He transforms what could be a cold and impersonal experience into one that is filled with enthusiasm, humor, and intellectual rigor, possibly even transcending an on-campus experience."

That description of Steven L. MacCall's online teaching comes from the student nomination that earned him the 2010 LJ Teaching Award, sponsored by ProQuest.

An associate professor at the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, MacCall was nominated by Kathie Popadin, known as 'Kpop' to the members of her cohort in the online MLIS program at SLIS. Sixteen of those students banded together to urge Kpop to write and submit the nomination. The contagious enthusiasm and pride of that squad, the fourth in the history of the SLIS online program, is strong evidence of the spirit MacCall imparted to its 40 members, who call themselves the Fantastic Fourth Regional Cohort.

Interaction essential and enthusiastic